

# Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Transition Program Frequently Asked Questions

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**November 28, 2023**

This document contains frequently asked questions about upcoming changes to Youth Transition Program (YTP) contracts between Vocational Rehabilitation and school districts or other entities. The questions are a running compilation gathered from multiple audiences including VR staff, school district transition specialists, administrators, and business office staff. The document will be updated periodically; please refer to date at the top for most recent information.

Questions are organized in the following sections:

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## How services will be provided

### 1. How will the services YTP specialists provide change under the new contract?

Contracts, process and documentation will change significantly. The most significant potential change is that YTP Transition Specialists may no longer be providing job development or job coaching.

Some of these services may qualify under the Pre-ETS category of “Job Exploration” or “Work Based Learning Experience.” Students with a clear career goal will be referred for general VR services.

### 2. What does fee-for-service look like?

In a fee-for-service model, we pay for services and not positions.

There will no longer be a student count. Rather, providers must track hours for coordination, arrangement and provision of five required Pre-ETS and any other pre-approved VR service. Documentation of completion of each service for each student must be available in order for district to receive payment.

### 3. How do we pay for training, supplies, materials, tech and other expenses?

Expenses approved in your 2023-24 budget are allowable as outlined in your budget narrative. We are considering how these expenses will be paid for as we develop the policy that specifies the rates we pay contractors.

#### 4. How can students at schools that opt out of YTP still receive VR services?

Schools that do not access YTP receive Pre-ETS through our VR Youth Team and TTAN contracted partners and receive VR Transition Services through IPE.

To get services, fill out the Request for Consultation on our Youth Services page and email it to [pre.ets@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:pre.ets@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

#### 5. How are you incorporating feedback from partners and providers?

We have three advisory groups to gather input:

- **Youth planning team:** Provides information from local teams to central leadership. Offers input on the program's vision, goals, and future direction. Serves as a communication channel for VR activities and initiatives back to their local teams.
- **VRC focus group:** To provide input on Internal Controls so that what is being created is functional, and that supports needed to carry forward these changes are available.
- **Partner advisory committee:** To provide input and expertise on working systems so that what is being created is functional and realistic, and so that supports needed to carry forward these changes are available.

Email your youth services coordinator if you have feedback to share.

#### 6. Is there still going to be a YTP Core Student Base?

This is not yet determined.

## 7. When will we know what districts have opted out of YTP?

There are three ways in which districts may opt out in the coming months:

1. They did not sign the 23-24 YTP contract extension; all VR offices have been notified of sites that opted out of the 23-24 contract extension.
2. They choose not to enter into a new contract with VR; or
3. Either party may mutually terminate at any time within the duration of the contract.

## Contract information

### 8. Under the new contract what will VR pay for if not salary or benefits?

- Pre-ETS
- Directly associated travel and supply costs

### 9. What will be the rate?

VR is in the process of drafting new rate setting rules for what we pay contractors to deliver Pre-ETS. The draft rate is set at \$50 per hour. New rates are anticipated to be effective July 1, 2024.

We invited YTP contractors to participate in the process; [see the attached news release we sent to all partners](#).

The public will have a chance to review the proposed rule changes and provide comment. The comment period is anticipated to be in January 2024. VR will announce when it posts the draft rules for public review.

For more information about our rate setting methodology, see our [Rate Setting FAQ](#).

**10. What is the incentive or benefit to districts to continue to contract with VR?**

- Potentially more flexibility in how to use FTE
- No minimum FTE requirement
- No match requirement
- Coordinated direct services to more students resulting in better post-secondary outcomes

**11. What is the reasoning behind the districts not having to provide matching funds for the contract, and what is the impact on the YTP specialist?**

Collecting match is not a requirement for a fee-for-service model. To simplify the accounting of dollars and time, districts will pay for any service or time not authorized by VR.

**12. Can I see an example of what a YTP contract looks like?**

YTP contracts are currently managed solely by the contract administrator Michelle Markle. It is a goal that new contracts, or at least the contract template, are more accessible to additional VR staff and contracted partners.

**13. Is VR opening up the contract to new providers?**

The new contract will be available to schools that do not currently have a YTP contract. VR does not plan to expand the contract outside of schools at this time due to the time constraints of our Corrective Action Plan.

**14. Can we get a sample IPE for YTP? A sample contract budget and flow?**

Once all new requirements are determined and we have sufficient policy and internal controls approved by RSA, we will begin to rebuild a resource library.

## **Roles, responsibilities and processes**

**15. Will YTP Transition Specialists still be district employees?**

Yes. We know having providers embedded in schools is important because they have more direct access to students and families. This is a priority as we develop the new contracts.

**16. How will VR track data?**

VR is testing a tool to capture Pre-ETS verification and authorization requirements and Pre-ETS invoicing. You will learn how this impacts your job at the February training.

**17. Can VRCs authorize services?**

Yes, eventually. All services provided within an IEP will be authorized by VRCs.

**18. How do Transition Specialists enter Pre-ETS?**

For now, TSs are using a Microsoft Form to track changes. We will begin a new Pre-ETS reporting process after the February regional trainings.

**19. What is the training plan?**

Community of Practice meetings are scheduled the second Monday of every month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. These meetings will kick off Dec. 11.

We are planning a series of regional trainings in February. These will be two-day required trainings held around the state with a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person.

[See details about these opportunities.](#)

**20. How can we provide consistency in contracting, especially around non duplication of IDEA and authorization of services?**

Once all new requirements are determined and we have sufficient policy and internal controls approved by RSA, we can begin to rebuild a resource library.

**21. If I get calls and questions, who do we direct them to?**

Send questions to your regional Pre-Employment Transition Services Provider, listed on the [VR Youth Services Partners web page](#).

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Email [vr.info@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:vr.info@odhsoha.oregon.gov) or call 503-945-5880 or 877-277-0513. We accept all relay calls.